

## CLAIMS

Amend the claims as follows.

In the claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A system for generating a response comprising:  
a language analysis module configured to parse a query into elements;  
a rules engine coupled to said language analysis module to receive said elements and configured to compare a condition of a rule against said elements, said rule configured to perform an action to retrieve information; ~~and~~  
a response generator coupled to said rules engine and configured to retrieve said information for presentation in a portion of a display that adjusts proportionately to the degree of importance of said information; and

an ontology based concept repository configured to link a plurality of concepts at multiple different concept domain layers, wherein the concepts associated with the different domain layers are represented by one or more natural language words and the concepts for higher concept domain layers are represented by one or more natural language words having more specific terms than the one or more natural language words representing the concepts associated with the lower domain layers.

2. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1 ~~further comprising a multi-layered concept repository configured to store a plurality of concepts, at least one of said plurality of concepts configurable to relate to a synonymous concept wherein the concepts are classified as a noun, verb, adjective or adverb.~~

3. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 2 ~~1~~ wherein ~~each of said at least some of the plurality of concepts is definable as an expression of a regular expression language are further defined as a rigid phrase that is matched by any punctuation and/or inflectional variant of the rigid phrase, or defined as a compositional phrase that includes a set of multiple terms that are matched by other concepts that contain all of the multiple terms contained in the set.~~

4. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 2 ~~further comprising:~~  
~~content storage for storing said information; and~~  
~~a semantic indexing engine configured to index said information by one of said plurality~~  
~~of concepts 1 wherein a concept at a first concept domain layer comprises a natural language~~  
~~term that describes all of the natural language terms associated with the concepts in a second~~  
~~linked concept domain layer.~~

5. (Original) The system of claim 4 further comprising a response formatter  
configured to generate said portion of said display, wherein said portion is adjusted based on a  
scope of said information.

6. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 5 ~~wherein said scope is determined by~~  
~~one of a word, a phrase, a sentence and a document 1 wherein at least some of the concepts~~  
~~include:~~  
~~a part of speech identifier that identifies a type of word class;~~  
~~a domain identifier identifying one of multiple different concept levels assigned to the~~  
~~concept; and~~  
~~a headword that identifies a collection of synonyms and other relationships that define the~~  
~~concept.~~

7. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein said response generator determines the  
importance of said information based on a quantifiable measure distinguishable from other  
actions of other rules, where said quantifiable measure is determined by one or more of a relative  
weight determinator, an accumulator relevancy determinator, a recency module, and a scope-  
based scorer.

8. (Currently Amended) A method for generating a response comprising:  
~~associating a plurality of different concepts together at multiple different concept domain~~  
~~layers, wherein the concepts for different concept domain layers are represented by natural~~  
~~language words having different specificity of terms for the associated concepts than the terms in~~  
~~the natural language words representing concepts in other concept domain layers;~~

establishing relationships among an identified concept at a first concept domain layer and other concepts at other different concept domain layers, where the identified concept at the first concept domain layer uses a broader more generic natural language term for the concept and at least one of said some of the other concepts at other different domain layers is associated with a use natural language definition terms that are more specific to an organization;

creating a semantic index that uses said the identified concept and the other associated concepts for identifying information;

parsing a query into elements, where at least one of said elements corresponds to said the identified concept;

retrieving units of information using said semantic index; and

generating a plurality of portions of a display, each of which presents information based on the importance of a corresponding unit of said information.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8 further comprising associating said the identified concept with one of a natural language term associated with the first concept domain layer, an industry-specific term associated with a second concept domain layer, and an organization-specific term associated with a third concept domain layer, a part of speech, and one of a rigid phrase, a compositional phrase and an expression.

10. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein creating said semantic index further comprises:

importing structured and unstructured content;

storing managed answers; and

generating at least one index for retrieving information from either said imported content or said stored managed answers.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8 wherein parsing said query further comprises:

comparing a set of rules against said elements; ~~and~~

determining that one or more of said elements satisfy a condition of a rule of said set of rules; and

identifying an action associated with said rule.

12. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein retrieving said units of information further comprises evaluating the importance of each of said units to form said response to said query.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12 wherein the importance of at least one of said units is based on the relevancy of ~~said~~ the identified concept to a document.

14. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein generating said plurality of portions further comprises scoring various scopes of said units of information.

15. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium for generating a response comprising:

instructions to associate a plurality of different concepts together at multiple different concept domain layers, wherein the concepts for different concept domain layers are represented by one or more natural language words having different specificity of terms for the associated concepts than the terms in the natural language words representing concepts in other concept domain layers;

instructions to establish relationships among an identified concept at a first concept domain layer and other concepts at other concept domain layers, where at least one of said other concepts at a second concept domain layer is associated with a natural language term definition specific to an organization and the identified concept at the first concept domain layer is associated with a more generic natural language term that is not specific to the organization;

instructions to create a semantic index that uses ~~said~~ the identified concept for identifying information;

instructions to parse a query into elements, where at least one of said elements corresponds to ~~said~~ the identified concept;

instructions to retrieve units of information using said semantic index; and

instructions to generate a plurality of portions of a display, each of which presents information based on the importance of a corresponding unit of said information.

16. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 15 wherein instructions to create said semantic index further comprises:

instructions to import structured and unstructured content;  
instructions to store managed answers; and  
instructions to generate at least one index for retrieving information from either said imported content or said stored managed answers.

17. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 15 wherein instructions to parse said query further comprises:

instructions to compare a set of rules against said elements; and  
instructions to determine that one or more of said elements satisfy a condition of a rule of said set of rules; and  
instructions to identify an action associated with said rule.

18. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 15 wherein instructions to retrieve said units of information further comprises evaluating the importance of each of said units to form said response to said query.

19. (New) The system of claim 1 wherein the rules engine further comprises range operators that specify a scope or amount of surrounding text in the query that is compared with specified expressions of the rules.

20. (New) The system of claim 1 wherein the rules engine further comprises business condition modules that contain personal user query history information and personal user demographic information and triggers rules having associated condition modules corresponding with the query.

21. (New) The system of claim 1 wherein the rules engine further comprises rules that compare the query with a part of speech identifier in the concepts, the part of speech identifier identifying a type of word class for the concepts, a domain identifier identifying at least one of

multiple different concepts levels for the concepts, and a headword that identifies a collection of synonyms and other relationships that define the concepts.

22. (New) The system of claim 1 wherein the rules engine further comprises rules having conditions that either refer to children of concepts or refer to children of children of concepts.